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An easy style, together with a remarkable power of concise statement have enabled the author to bring within the compass of a comparatively small volume a thoroughly adequate treatment of the most important constitutional epoch in American history. No one can hope to secure a true perspective of the development of the American nation without a careful study of Prof. Dunning's admirable work.

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Hanotaux, Gabriel. *Contemporary France (1870-1900)*. Vol. III. Pp. ix, 634. Price, \$3.75. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1907.

The present form of government in France has been in existence for nearly forty years. In 1830 Tallyrand, on taking the oath to the constitution of the July monarchy, boasted that it was the thirteenth. Between 1830 and 1870 France was successively a monarchy, a republic and an empire, and since 1870 a republic again. The Third Republic has, therefore, by comparison at least, much that speaks for permanency and durability. Yet, as M. Hanotaux points out, it was the result of compromise, not of deliberate effort, on the part of the assembly that called it into existence. "Do not seek for the principles which guided us," declared the man of the National Assembly, which, though elected in 1871, dared not finally establish a republican government in France till 1875. "Chance alone was our master." The present volume of M. Hanotaux's able work deals almost exclusively with the establishment of the Republic in its final form, with the gradual development of the constitution and its interpretation, its "theory" as the translator puts it. The author's personal interest centers with much fondness in the Assembly which gave final shape to the republican government of France. "The Assembly," he writes, was "great less for what it achieved than for what it outlined, for what it did than for what it planned." Nevertheless, like Thiers, "It deserved well of its country." With the constitution as it was fully adopted none of the members of the Assembly were satisfied; all had "resigned themselves." In doing so they were not unmindful of the fact that across the ocean "another Republican constitution had been born under circumstances quite as difficult and doubtful."

With respect to the deeper forces that wrought a successful government for France, the author eloquently says, "The Constitution of 1875 was not the work of one man, neither was it elaborated in one day. It had lain within the bosom of France for nearly a century. . . . All the progress of France within the last hundred years had been toward one object: to organize popular sovereignty in a free country, with a controlled government. This ideal was that of the nation from the day when it became disgusted with kings."

Not much space is allotted to economic and social history. The social question, the Labor Congress in Paris, the press, municipal organization, and educational questions are treated as they appear reflected in the Assembly, where the absorbing interest is, of course, political. Indeed, on the one hand,

one cannot but regret that they should be treated as quite so secondary in importance, and on the other hand, that they should be allowed to enter at all at points where they necessarily interrupt the continuity of the evolutionary progress towards the constitution. Both lose by this method. At the same time, it is only fair to note that the treatment of these subjects, although sketchy, is generally masterful. Still the author might with profit have heeded Thiers' warning: "We have much too much politics in this country," and his own trenchant remark that "a representative assembly is not a whole people." A pleasing exception to the treatment of the subjects from the parliamentary standpoint is the account of the terrible blight which befell the vineyards of France between 1865 and 1882 during which one-half the total area of French vineyards was ruined. The foreign situation is treated with skill and penetrating insight. The space devoted to it is proportionately not large in view of M. Hanotaux's familiarity with this subject. Twenty-seven pages are devoted to *France and Europe* in 1874, and fifty to the *War Scare* in 1875.

The work has suffered considerably in translation because of the unusual license used by the translator in making excisions, often quite arbitrary in character, of clauses and sentences, and of most of the notes and explanations. So valuable a work should be given the English reader as nearly as possible as it leaves the author. Apart from this, however, the English rendering preserves the spirit of the original to a high degree.

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Lea, H. C. *The Inquisition in the Spanish Dependencies.* Pp. xvi, 564. Price, \$2.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908.

Like Mr. Lea's other books, this is distinctly one of authentic information. No future writer on Spanish government outside of Spain, especially its American colonies, can disregard it; and, indeed, in the light of what is here brought forth, much of Spanish colonial history must be rewritten. Throughout, the work abounds in nice points of true historical criticism and philosophic insight. Its first five chapters on the European dependencies, namely, Sicily and Malta, Naples, Sardinia, Milan and the Canaries, are in large measure the drippings from their author's previous extensive research for his other volumes on the Inquisition. The last three chapters, by far the major and more valuable portion of the work, dealing with the Holy Office in Mexico and the Philippines, Peru and New Granada, represent an almost entirely new field, the only extensive work in which has been heretofore done by the Chilean scholar, J. T. Medina. The materials for the work have been drawn from many sources, in large part from manuscripts conserved in various archives, libraries and collections, both public and private. The few printed sources dealing with the Inquisition in the European dependencies have been freely consulted, while Medina has been the printed source for the latter chapters. It may be stated with almost positive assurance that the Mexican archives still contain much matter that